

Mrs Chas Sumpter



AUGUST, 1893,

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Grace Church Visitor.

*A Monthly Magazine Devoted to Christian Nurture and Fellowship,
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VOL. V.

AUGUST, 1893.

No. 8.

"To the Spiritual Children of Grace Church."

REV. J. P. LLOYD.

As again I address you through the pages of THE VISITOR, I am glad to think of you as correctly classed on the Grace Church Record. There you are designated as "Spiritual Children;" and considered to be "Children of God," by "your faith in Christ Jesus."

To the Church of Sardis, the Redeemer speaks by the Apostle John, saying: "I know thy works; that thou hast a *name*, that thou livest, and *art dead*"—Rev. 3:1. I am glad, dear young friends, to "hope better things of you, and things that accompany salvation, though I thus speak." I trust that in God's sight you are no longer "strangers and foreigners; but fellow-citizens with the saints, and of the household of God; and are built upon the foundation of the apostles, and prophets; Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone."—Eph. 2:19. How wonderful is this teaching! and it is addressed "To the saints that are at Ephesus, and to the faithful in Christ Jesus." All these are built on that foundation that has Christ as its chief corner stone.

Once, my young friends, this was not true of you; once it was not true of any of the children of men. Ever since Satan, the deceiver, and the implacable

enemy to God and man, tempted our "first parents" to eat the forbidden fruit, in disregard of the command of God, men also have been "at enmity with God," and are "children of wrath." For "they have all gone out of the way," "all have sinned" and came short of the glory of God. The Jew first and also the Gentile, (read Romans, 2d and 3rd chapters,) and what a picture have you of beings who, at first, were made in the image of God. And if you, "Spiritual Children of Grace Church," have been saved from this condition, "by grace are you saved through faith, and that (grace of faith) not of yourselves; it is the gift of God." And surely this is *great* grace; which changes you from enemies to friends, nay, to "Sons." Does not, ought not, a change so great bring with it great duties?

As I intimated in my last paper, I would now name some of these "duties," which, as being *duties* you *owe* to God, will also enable you to "be therefore followers of God, as *dear* children."—Eph. 1:5.

Let me then say: First, it is your duty to "*Know God*."

It is your duty to *know God* because God *commands* it; and he proclaims it, as of first importance, even among all the terrors of Sinai. Ex. 20:1-2, "I am the Lord thy God which brought thee out of the land of Egypt, and out of the

house of bondage. Thou shalt have no other gods before me."

Deut. 4:9, "Know, and consider *in thy heart*, that the Lord he is God; in heaven above and in the earth beneath: there *is none else*."

Psalms 46:10, "Be still and *know* that I am God; I will be exalted among the heathen; I will be exalted in the earth."

Psalms 100:3, "*Know* ye, that the Lord he is God: it is He that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture." And hear among other teachings, those of the Prophet Hosea, 4:1: "The Lord hath a controversy with the inhabitants of the land, because there is no truth, nor *knowledge* of God. And, the Son of God himself, rebukes the Pharisees for this." He had said, John 8:18-19, "The Father that sent me beareth witness of me. Then said they, 'Where is thy Father?' Jesus answered, 'Ye neither *know* me nor *my Father*: If ye had known me ye should *know my Father* also." And in the 38th verse he says, "I *speak* that which I have seen, with *my Father*; and ye *do* that which ye have seen with *your Father*." And in verse 39 they replied, "Abraham is our Father." He answered them again: "If ye were Abraham's children ye would do the works of Abraham. But now ye seek to kill me, a man that has told you the truth." They replied, "We have one Father, even God." Dear young friends, hear the answer of Him of whom God himself declared, in a *voice* from Heaven: "This is my beloved Son; hear ye him." To these carping Pharisees, verse 42, he said: "If God were your Father, ye would love me. For I proceeded forth, and came from God; neither came I of myself but he sent me. Why do ye not understand my speech? even because ye cannot hear my word." Then came his burning words, 'Ye are of your Father, the devil, and the works of your Father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning,

and abode not in the truth; because the truth is not in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own, for he is a liar, and the father of it." I may not continue this wonderful incident in our Lord's life and teachings; and yet I am loath to leave them, for they are full of solemn warning, and instruction. But at last these enemies brought him to death, and the Cross. Closing his interview with them, he says: "If I honor myself, my honor is nothing; it is my Father that honoreth me; of whom ye say that He is your God. Yet ye have *not known him*. And in his last prayer with His disciples, just before His crucifixion, he sends up this accusation and testimony, concerning the world. He had prayed, "Father glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee. Thou hast given him power over all flesh that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him. And this is eternal life: That they should *know Thee*, the only true God; and *Jesus Christ* whom thou hast sent." And, as he closes his prayer, the world comes again to his view; and his accusation—his *sorrowful* accusation—goes up to God. "O, righteous Father, the *world* hath not *known THEE*."

"Spiritual Children of Grace Church," you are such only by that grace which makes you "Children of God;" as being "born again," born of the Spirit. "Go on," then "to know the Lord"—growing in grace; and the knowledge of God.

I have written on this "*duty*" of men—of all men—and especially of *renewed* men—as God's "Spiritual Children;" and written *much* on it, for you, dear young friends, because I have felt the importance of it. It lies at the foundation of all acceptable service to God; and of all joy of his people in rendering that service. Paul found at Athens an altar inscribed, "*To the unknown God*." But it is not true, that "ignorance is the mother of devotion;" but it is the mother

of all forms of superstition. And Paul at once proceeded to declare to them the true God; "God that made the world, and all things therein," and who "is Lord of heaven and earth." And not 'dwelling in temples made with hands;' he is not worshiped with men's hands, as though "*he* needed anything;" for he "gives to all, life and breath and all things." And the apostle, speaking to Greek philosophers and learned men of Athens, did not fail to declare to them, (Acts 17:27,) that they should "SEEK THE LORD," "if haply they might feel after him;" though "he is not far from every one of us, for, in Him we live and move, and have our being." That unknown God, whom they ignorantly worshipped, they must "*know*," and must *seek* him, if they would know him. But, in writing to the Romans, this fearless and devout man, in the very *first verse* of his epistle, says: "Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated unto the *gospel of God*" He ever sought to preach "Christ and him crucified;" and he was preparing to do so before these men of much learning at Athens yet ignorant of the true God; and especially ignorant of *God in Christ*. And we have mentioned the "Judgment;" and the fact that God "had appointed a day in which he will judge the world;" and judge it "*by that man* whom he had ordained, and hath given *assurance*, unto all men, in that he *raised him from the dead*" But, when these "*wise men*," "heard of the resurrection of the dead some mocked; others more politely" said, "we will hear you again of this matter."

Thus, "the world by wisdom knew not God; and "wise men after the flesh," still fail to know him; and even the *Gospel of Christ* is "foolishness to them." Even children in our Sabbath Schools could teach those Philosophers of Athens "the mystery of godliness;" and how "God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself."

Dear young friends, if "the light of the knowledge of the glory of God, in the face of Jesus Christ, hath shined unto *you*," "go on to know the Lord," "increasing in the knowledge of God." "Add unto your faith knowledge. In order to do all this, *search the Scriptures*." And of this, as a second duty, I had proposed to speak, in this paper, designing thus to close my communications on these subjects. But what I had written I find would make this communication too long, condense it as I may. If our Father allows, and aids me, I will have something to say in another article. Dear young friends, "I commend you to God, and the *w. rld* of his *grace*, which is able to *build you up* and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified."

LINA ANN, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Garman residing near Collingswoods, died Aug. 4th of cholera-infantum. She was born Feb. 4th, 1891, aged 2 years, 5 months and 11 days. We had not learned of the sad bereavement of this family until upon our return from our vacation. We pray that the Lord may comfort their hearts and sustain them in their sorrow by his grace. The funeral services were held at the Salem Reformed Church Sabbath morning, Aug. 6th. In the absence of the pastor the services were conducted by Rev. J. Rettig, of the Reformed Orphanage.

WE are under very special obligations to Elder D. W. Souder, for a check of \$25.00 by which he expressed his sympathy in our behalf in the loss of our horse. This means also that the pastor is not to be without a horse.

THE fall communion service will be held Oct. 11th. Services will be held during the week preceding for several evenings. Applicants for church membership will be received at this service.

Grace Church Visitor

REV. A. K. ZARTMAN, Editor and Publisher.

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The Pastor's Vacation.

The consistory did a very generous act, when at their monthly meeting in July, they voted the pastor a four weeks' vacation. At the time we felt that this act was almost too generous, for we were not aware that we were so much exhausted and that we could use with so much advantage such a prolonged vacation.

Our "outing" program provided for a visit among our numerous friends in eastern and central Ohio. Accompanied by Mrs. Zartman and daughter Josie, we left home Tuesday afternoon, July 25th, arriving at Canton, Ohio, in the evening of the same day, where we spent very pleasantly two weeks, with the parents of Mrs. Zartman and other friends. We always enjoy our visits to this beautiful and growing city of the Buckeye State. Canton justly prides itself in being a city of beautiful homes, and of its wealth and enterprise.

Thursday morning, Aug. 10th, we took up our journey southward for a more retired and rural resort, at Glenford, Ohio, the home of the pastor's parents. We arrived at Glenford in the afternoon of the same day, and were re-

ceived at the depot by Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Mechling, brother-in-law and sister of the pastor. We soon found ourselves at their delightful country home, just a short distance from the little town, in the glens. After tea, about sunset, we started over the hills for our old home, a distance of about two and a half miles. Every turn, and up and down of the road was familiar to us. We noted with interest the farm houses and barns, and fields as we rode along this old familiar highway. We found, however, that our hearts were growing eager, almost to impatience, to catch a glimpse once again of the "old home on the hills." But our anxieties were soon gratified. Father and mother were somewhat surprised and altogether overjoyed at our somewhat unexpected arrival. And truly it was a happy moment for us. Two years had elapsed since we had the privilege of looking upon the faces of our aged parents, and we were rejoiced to be with them again, and to find them so well preserved and so happy. Father and mother did not seem to be growing older. It is true the years are growing upon them, but in spirit they seem as young as many years ago.

It had been arranged for sometime to have a "family reunion," at the old home, on Thursday, Aug. 17th. The day after our arrival, Mrs. J. W. Foucht and son Evan, from Dayton, Ohio, made their advent at the old home. A few days later Rev. R. C. Zartman and family from Philadelphia arrived. About noon of the day of the reunion, Rev. S. K. Zartman, of Dayton, Ohio, arrived. The day of the reunion was in all respects a most delightful one. The family circle was complete, of those on earth, father and mother, five daughters and three sons. One little son who had long years ago passed into the "celestial city," was present with us only in our thoughts and memories. Sons-in-law, daughters-

in-law, grand children and a group of other friends were present to share the joys of the day with us. In the afternoon of the day pictures were taken of the old home and family, and also a group composed of the family and friends present. Later, a religious service was held of scripture reading, repeating of the Apostle Creed in unison, prayer, singing and brief addresses by Revs. N. H. Loose, of Baltimore, Ohio; G. P. Fisher, Somerset, Ohio, pastor of the Home church and A. D. Wolfinger, of Thornville, Ohio.

This was one of our happiest days we ever spent at home with father and mother. Many pleasant incidents of childhood were recalled, and re-enjoyed. Our time at home was spent in visiting with friends, rambling over the old farm, resting, reading, and doing some talking at the churches in the community. It was a feast to the heart, and a rest to the body and exhausted nerves. This summer's vacation shall be remembered as one of the refreshing oases of life's journey. Thursday morning, Aug. 24th, we said good-bye to father and mother and many other loved ones, and started for home. We were loathe to take our departure from those who are so dear to us, but this was the Lord's will, and to his voice we would render cheerful obedience. On our journey homeward we came en-route Columbus, Ohio, and Upper Sandusky. At this later place, we were unexpectedly taken in, not by guile, but by the love and kindness which prevaieth. An uncle and aunt and their daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Christian Foucht and daughter Lizzie, met us at the depot. They were so persistent in their entreaties that we should tarry with them for the night, that we finally consented to their wishes, and we shall never regret that we tarried over with them for a day. We have spent many happy hours and days at this delightful country home, and it was indeed refreshing to us to be

with these dear friends again. They are one of the leading families in the Reformed church in their community, and are also much interested in the Reformed church abroad. As an evidence of this, Mrs Foucht handed us while with them, unsolicited, five dollars for the building fund of the new church. We have no doubt there are many others of the friends of Grace church who will in due time come to our help in our building enterprise.

Friday afternoon, Aug. 25th, we took the train at Upper Sandusky for Fort Wayne, arriving at our home in the evening at 6:45.

Our vacation was a most profitable, as well as a pleasant one to us. We feel rested and very much recuperated in body, in mind and in heart. We are now at home and among our people again for active work. And we shall hope with the united effort of the church to do most effectual work for the Master.

MISS ROSE ZARTMAN, of Glenford, O., arrived in the city September 1st, and spent several days at the parsonage. We regret very much that she could not tarry with us longer.

MISS LILLIE VORDERMARK and Miss Georgia Smith are both sick with typhoid fever. It is supposed that both have already passed the crises in the fever and are slowly recovering.

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MONTHLY MEETINGS.

First Thursday of each month, 2:30 P. M.

THE ladies of the church are arranging to hold a Peach Festival, Thursday evening, Sept 28th. Get ready for it.

ELDER MARTIN CONNETT attended the old soldiers' reunion at Indianapolis Sept. 4th, 5th and 6th. He says the boys had a good time.

MISS LIBBIE FELKER has returned so the city after more than a year's visit with a sister at Grand Rapids. We are glad to see her at our services again.

MRS. REV. CHARLES SCHAFF and children, from Louisville, Ky., have been spending the summer with Mr. and Mrs. C. Nireiter, of West Washington Street.

R. L. ROMNEY was feeling quite ill during a part of the month of August. He has since improved very rapidly in health and can now be found at his office every day.

WORK on our auditorium will not be begun until early next spring. It was thought best not to put in the foundation this fall owing to the fact that it would make access to our lecture rooms, during the winter months, almost impossible. Not beginning work until next spring will enable us also to have our building fund in a somewhat better shape. Soliciting inside and outside the church will, however be pushed at once until the canvass is completed. A payment on the subscription will be called for about the 1st of November coming. Let us all work energetically to enlarge our building fund as rapidly as possible.

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 Weekly Prayer Meeting, Sabbath Evening, 6:45 P. M.

Prayer Meeting Topics and
 Leaders.

Sept. 10. Lessons from Pual's life.
 Acts, 28; 30-31; 1 Cor. 9; 16-27. Eugene Mathis.

Sept. 17. Our example. What should it be? Rom. 14:21; Matt. 5:16. Rev. N. W. Bloom.

Sept. 24. Testimony meeting. How Christ has helped me. 1 Peter 3: 5-16; Ps. 94: 17, 19. Emil Ketler.

Oct. 1. I am ready. Rom. 1: 9-17. Katie Pence.

Oct. 8. Faith in Jesus Christ. What is it? Rom. 3: 22; Eph. 3: 17-21. Nellie French.

SABBATH afternoon, Aug. 27th, Clara Wayne, little daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Piepinbrink was baptized at the parsonage.

MR. BOREN and Miss Laura Myers were married at the home of the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Milton Myers, residing near Collingswood, August 10th. Rev. J. Rettig performed the ceremony. We extend our heartiest congratulations to these young friends, and hope for them a very happy and prosperous future.

REV. N. W. BLOOM, who for some more than three years was pastor of the Reformed Church at Reedsburg, O., has removed to the city and entered into partnership with W. L. Kerlin in the undertaking business. Bro. Bloom has been compelled to relinquish his ministerial work for the present on account of throat difficulties. We are glad to welcome him and his family to our city and to Grace Church. We find this brother a very congenial gentleman, and we hope he and his family will be kindly received by all our people.

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